has now been accepted as beneficent legislative protection even by those who held a hostile attitude in its initial stage. There was then considerable excitement and opposition, both in and out of the Council, regarding the scope and utility of the Bill as originally framed, since it was thought impracticable and inexpedient as a whole. The Bill, as now modified, not only gives a complete relief to all the critics by removing such misconceptions, but also hastens the feasibility and increases the utility of the measure by expressly excluding from its operation all purely secular charitable endowments and all religious institutions in the sole management of single persons or families, and also by providing safeguards against high-handed and summary assumptions by the salient provisions of section 6.

The necessity for such a measure need not now be much adverted upon, as it has been admitted and acted upon by the Council itself at a previous meeting, and is also evidenced by the several petitions to the Council supporting the same. The enormous properties scattered in charitable trusts, the proverbial ignorance and indifference of some of the managers, the rivalry, jealousy and collusion in others, all these oftentimes combine to bring in disruption and mismanagement, and thus retard and frustrate the noble intentions of the donors. That a constitutional Government of modern times cannot be a mere on-looker at the slow decay and disappearance of the many Oorala and Kara temples scattered throughout the length and breadth of this charitable land, but must boldly step in to help, encourage and protect such institutions, is a matter beyond doubt.

Some of the petitions received, proceeding presumably from the same quarter, deprecate this measure on the ground that it proceeds upon a gratuitous assumption of mismanagement in many institutions, and recommend the appointment of a Commission to hold an elaborate enquiry into the actual state of matters. I must confess I am not a little surprised at this statement. It is a well-known fact that many of the Oorala temples are fast drifting into ruin, with, of course honorable exceptions. Opinions might differ as to the causes which contribute to this decline, but the fact itself cannot be denied by any person acquainted with the country. This is fully admitted in the elaborate and erudite speeches delivered in this Council when the principle of the Bill was discussed. In my humble opinion, this is a matter beyond doubt, and, it seems to me, it would be a needless waste of time and money to appoint a Commission as prayed for by the petitioners.

Another point urged by the petitioners deserves special mention. They contend that the Select Committee have exceeded their powers in bringing back into the Bill a provision which had been rejected by the Council at the first reading. On a careful perusal of the original Bill and the amended Bill, I am constrained to say that this contention is based on a misconception. The Select Committee's Bill does not authorise the assumption of Oorala temples on the ground of mismanagement, as apprehended by the petitioners. The power of assumption is restricted to the instances falling under clauses (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) of section 4 (I), which are really of a non-contentious nature. In fact, the Bill contains every precaution against undue interference with vested rights and the provision in section 11 regarding the restoration of temples even after assumption is an unmistakable protection afforded to the Ooralers. With these few remarks, I submit that the measure has my fullest sympathy and support.

The motion was put and agreed to.

As it was now 5-30 P. M., the consideration of the amendments, of which notice had been given, was postponed to the next meeting.

PRESS BILL.

Mr. Rajaram Row.—I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on this Bill and move that the Report and the amended Bill be published in the Gazette and the consideration of the Bill taken up at the next meeting.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council adjourned at 5-35 P. M.

K. KRISHNASWAMY RAO,
President.

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